

THE ANGEL OF PEACE

is calling her. And she has seen that the world rejects her and drives her to Christ crucified." And to Madonna Isa, who ultimately became one of the Mantellate, she suggests that Benedetta should come to the Rocca—Rocca d' Orcia or Rocca di Tentennano, the chief fortress of the Salimbeni, where Agnolino usually resided with their mother—before she herself came thither.¹

It was already August when Catherine left Siena, accompanied by her usual band of disciples and women, which included Fra RaimondOj Fra Tommaso della Fonte, Fra Bartolommeo, Fra Matteo Tolomei, Fra Santi, Stefano, Neri, the newly regained Francesco Malavolti (from whose pen comes the most vivid description of these months), Gabriele Piccolomini, with Alessa, Cecca, Lisa, and others of the Mantellate. Monna Lapa— familiarly known as *nonna*, or "granny," by the members of her daughter's spiritual family—seems to have come as far as Montepulciano. She and Cecca were left among the nuns of the monastery of Santa Agnese, where Cecca had a daughter, Giustina, a novice ; while Catherine went on her mission, first to Cione Salimbeni at his stronghold of Castiglioncello del Trinoro, and thence to Agnolino at the Rocca. ^(c) And in a short space of time," writes Francesco Malavolti, " she brought both of them to perfect concord, which many other barons and potent men had hitherto been unable to effect." From the Rocca, Catherine visited the Abbey of Sant' Antimo, at the request of her friend the Abbot, who found himself involved in a quarrel with the archpriest of Montalcino, who claimed jurisdiction over him. In like fashion, at Montepulciano, it was her task to pacify Spinello Tolomei and others of his family, who were in a chronic state of hostility towards both the Salimbeni and the Republic, and divided among themselves. In this latter attempt, however, she had only a partial and temporary success ; for, in the following spring, in spite of the intervention of the new Bishop of Siena (Luca Bertini, the papal nuncio whose imprisonment at Florence has

¹ Letters 112 (329), 113 (33°)» "4
(²^7), "5 (33²)-213